

Message Text

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51

ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 INR-05 LAB-01 NSAE-00 RSC-01 IO-10

SAM-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /065 W

----- 031110

R 191758Z NOV 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7836

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 59

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSH HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB,ECFTU

SUBJECT: WILLY BRANDT WILL ATTEND ICFTU'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION

1. SUMMARY: FORMER FRG CHANCELLOR WILLY BRANDT WILL BE
THE PRINCIPAL SPEAKER AT NOVEMBER 21 CEREMONIES IN BRUSSELS
COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ICFTU. THE
CEREMONIES WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE REGULAR YEAR-END MEETING
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OF THE ICFTU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WHICH IS EXPECTE TO PONDER

THE STATUS OF ORIT, THE ICFTU'S REGIONAL ORGANIZATION IN LATIN AMERICA. THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO SELECT THE SITE OF THE ICFTU'S 1975 WORLD CONGRESS, NOMINATE THE ICFTU MEMBERS OF THE NEW ICFTU-WCL JOINT WORKING COMMITTEE AND DETERMINE FUTURE ICFTU POLICY IN GREECE, PORTUGAL AND SPAIN. END SUMMARY.

2. ON NOVEMBER 21, WILLY BRANDT WILL HEAD A LIST OF SPEAKERS WHICH INCLUDES ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL FRANCIS BLANCHARD AT CEREMONIES MARKING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF ICFTU. BELGIAN FGTB LEADER GEORGES DEBUNNE AND FRANK WALCOTT OF THE BARBADOES WORKERS UNION HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED AS THE PRINCIPAL TRADE UNION SPEAKERS FOR THE EVENT.

3. A DISCUSSION OF LATIN AMERICAN PROBLEMS IS EXPECTED TO DOMINATE A MEETING OF THE ICFTU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOLLOWING THE CEREMONIES. THE ICFTU SECRETARIAT HAS BEEN UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM AFFILIATES, PARTICULARLY THE SCANDINAVIANS, TO REORGANIZE THE INTERAMERICAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION OF WORKERS (ORIT). ICFTU GENERAL SECRETARY KERSTEN HAS BEEN RELUCTANT TO INTERVENE IN ORIT AFFAIRS BECAUSE OF THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF THE AFL-CIO IN THE REGIONAL ORGANIZATION. HOWEVER, MANY SCANDINAVIAN LEADERS CONSIDER THE ORIT STATEMENT COMMEMORATING THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF ALLENDE'S FALL IN CHILE LAST SEPTEMBER AS THE LAST STRAW IN A LONG SERIES OF ORIT ACTIONS WHICH RUN CONTRARY TO ICFTU POLICY. ACCORDING TO ICFTU ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY JOHN VANDERVECKE, THE STATEMENT WAS SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE AFL-CIO. IF CONDEMS THE CHILEAN JUNTA'S ACTIONS SINCE ALLENDE'S OVERTHROW BUT CRITICIZES THE ALLENDE REGIME AND JUSTIFIES THE TAKEOVER.

4. MEXICO CITY, KUALA LUMPUR AND LUXEMBOURG ARE CHIEF AMONG THE PROPOSED SITE FOR THE 1975 WORLD CONGRESS OF THE ICFTU. THE CONGRESS HAS NEVER BEEN HELD OUTSIDE EUROPE. THE BRITISH TUC, WITH AN EYE ON THE BUDGET, WOULD PREFER TO SEND ITS 15 DELEGATES TO LUXEMBOURG. THE GLOBE TROTTERING GERMAN DGB LEADERS FAVOR KUALA LUMPUR, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BUT MEXICO CITY SEEMS TO HAVE THE INSIDE TRACK WITH MOST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

5. GREECE, PORTUGAL AND SPAIN HAVE BEEN EARMARKED FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION AT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. ACTION PROGRAMS IN EACH COUNTRY ARE EXPECTED TO BE DEVELOPED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE WCL AND THE TRADE SECRETARIATS OF BOTH ORGANIZATIONS. LEADERS OF THE TWO

INTERNATIONALS HAVE TOLD US THAT THEY INTEND TO RECTIFY
THE MISTAKES MADE IN PORTUGAL THUS FAR AND TO AVOID
THEIR REPETITION IN SPAIN BY ASSURING CLOSE
COORDINATION OF ALL DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES
AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS. THE GREEK LABOR FEDERATION HAS
REAPPLIED FOR ICFTU MEMBERSHIP BUT SOME FORM OF ICFTU-WCL
COLLABORATION IS ALSO CONTEMPLATED FOR GREECE.MYERSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNIONS, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ECBRU09038
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740334-0811
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741132/aaaabarx.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SIL
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAR 2002 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <24 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WILLY BRANDT WILL ATTEND ICFTU'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
TAGS: ELAB, ICFTU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005